

(Old) Jefferson Court House  
Jefferson, Texas

HABS NO. Tex-118

*Marion Co.*

HABS  
TEX

158-JEF

11 -

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District Tex-1

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Birdsall P. Briscoe, District Representative  
4301 South Main Street, Houston, Texas.

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Owner Jefferson Public School System

Date of Erection 1870

Architect Thomas Hinkle

Builder Unknown

Number of Stories Two

Present Condition Fair

Materials of Construction Brick

Other Existing Records None

Additional Data Built originally as a Court House but is now used for a school for negroes - part of the Jefferson County Public School System. It was built at a time when the classic period was beginning to be tainted by the nondescript forms of the Sixties: witness the hooded windows, the enormous columns and the strange window in the pediment. The building now seems to be chiefly celebrated for its having been the scene of the famous trial of Abe Rothchild who was accused of having killed his wife, Diamond Besaie. The trial lasted several years and the defendant was finally acquitted.